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RECREATION NEWSLETTER

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October 1941

Dear Recreation Worker:

This is being started as the Recreation Congress draws to its close. Doubtless those of you who attended these meetings were as inspired by them as I was. The Congress on the whole kept the high standard that the National Recreation Association has set for these annual meetings.

It was evident throughout the week that the emphasis on recreation as an integral part of health in the defense program is not only bringing increasing responsibilities and opportunities to all of us in the field, but is adding materially to the general appreciation of the importance of recreation in civilian morale.

I particularly enjoyed Dr. Plant, whose paper I have tried to brief for you, and Dr. L. B. Sharp, who stimulated us to thinking along new lines in camping and education.

Four sessions were devoted to rural recreation. R. W. Kerns, Rural Sociology Extension, Pennsylvania, summarized and interpreted them for the Congress. Excerpts from his paper are enclosed.

Congress Notes

In discussing "Camping for Rural Youth," Dr. L. B. Sharp, Director, Life Camps, New York, N. Y., pointed out that camping is not an activity. It is a way of life, a philosophy.

The objective of his work camps is that people may learn to love to live in the outdoors. They offer boys and girls opportunities for first-hand experiences in managing for themselves the primary necessities of life - food, shelter, self-occupation, spiritual uplift, and getting along in a group.

He presented strong arguments for a camp program based on the year-round experiences of youth, concluding with the statement that we "underestimate the abilities of youth to take responsibility for itself."

Dr. Sharp, whose address is Life Camps, Inc., 14 West 49th Street, New York, N. Y., is available for consultation on camp programs and problems. Last year he established a scholarship on which Benton P. Cummings, 4-H county agent, Northampton, Mass., went to his National Camp for professional leaders in camping.

Charles Firman has been appointed as county recreation agent in Hillsboro County, N. H., as a result of the excellent program carried on by WPA and the Extension Service cooperating under the direction of P. F. Ayer, Extension rural organization and recreation specialist. Mr. Firman is the first county recreation agent to be employed on county funds, as far as I know.

Two home demonstration agents and a district agent accompanied June Donahue, Extension community activities specialist, to the Congress. Miss Donahue usually brings a carload of Arkansas agents to this meeting. All of them make it a vacation trip.

"Plan so that this generation will keep out of the path of the next," says Charles W. Eliot, Director, National Resources Planning Board. The plans may be changed in the future but a pattern will be there. Those who come after may then know toward what you were building.

The Society of Recreation Workers of America elected F. S. Mathewson of Plainfield, N. J., as its new president. The organization is interested in forming a rural section. A major project for the coming year is obtaining a Civil Service rating for Federal employees in recreation. The Society is also working to bring municipal recreation workers under Social Security.

Emergency Programs

The discussions of problems growing out of the emergency programs were particularly helpful. Although each of you is in touch with the new programs in your own area, some information concerning developments here in Washington may be of interest to you.

An Information Exchange has been set up in the United States Office of Education, where ideas and materials on education and defense are being evaluated and lent to educators, civic organizations, youth groups, club leaders, and others. A catalog of available materials may be had from the United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

You probably are acquainted with the efforts of the Public Work Reserve in the Federal Works Agency to build up a 6-year program of Federal public works based on programs of needed capital improvements and new and expanded public services to be undertaken after the reduction of defense activities. State and local agencies will prepare their part of the program which will be developed chiefly in the fields of health, education, and recreation. This is a program in which all planning groups will be interested. Staff members have been assigned in the Washington office of the Federal Works Agency and also in the area offices to evaluate proposed projects and to maintain corrected, up-to-date plans.

The WPA is establishing a Nation-wide program to train recreation leaders for use in defense areas and towns near military reservations. Information concerning plans can be obtained locally.

A list of the regional recreation representatives of the Federal Security Agency is enclosed so that you may consult them if you wish. They are experienced people charged with rendering consultation and organization services in recreation, especially in defense areas.

Miss Alice Marble, assisted by Miss Mary K. Brown, is in charge of developing a physical-fitness program for women and girls in the Office of Civilian Defense.

Less than 50 Cents

Upon What Does Peace Depend. E. C. Lindeman, 19 pp. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, New York, N. Y. April 1941. (printed.)

America. David Cushman Coyle. 91 pp. National Home Library, Washington, D. C., 1941. Excellent for reading aloud and discussion.

Pan-American Carnival. 19 pp. MP #312-7-41, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 1941. A collection of practical and interesting suggestions for a carnival. It includes ideas on organization, program events, costumes, musical instruments, games, dances, and lists of additional sources of information.

Our Neighbors to the South. 8 pp. MP #310-7-41. National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 1941. A bibliography listing references, including those relating to dances, music, plays, pageants, festivals, customs, games, party plans, and other sources of program material from Central and South America.

Home-economics and 4-H Club plays are published by the Lakeside Publishing Co., 468 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Books Costing Over \$1

Introduction to Youth. Erdman Harris. 221 pp. The Macmillan Co. 60 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 1940. Young people and their problems discussed for the benefit of their parents, teachers and leaders. The author knows young people and faces their problems frankly, using illustrations taken from life in presenting them. He deals with the techniques of the personal interview, the speech, the sermon, and classroom discussion in a way that is helpful and practical in its attitude toward youth problems.

A Modern Physical Education Program for Boys and Girls. Vaughan S. Blanchard and Laurentine B. Collins. 350 pp. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, N. Y., 1940. A practical guide in curriculum planning and in the everyday teaching of physical education, based on the premise that the physical-education program in secondary schools should emphasize the cooperative and coeducational relationships of boys and girls as well as their needs as individuals. The general objectives, organization, and administration of the gymnasium, pool, and playground programs are

described. A brief chapter deals with the health program. The text is illustrated by many photographs and diagrams.

Emotion and Conduct in Adolescence. Caroline B. Zachry, in collaboration with Margaret Lighty, for the Commission on Secondary School Curriculum of the Progressive Education Association. 563 pp. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, N. Y. 1940. A book, whose aim is an "increased understanding of young people for the purposes of education." This involves an appreciation of the adolescent's efforts to find personal satisfaction and, at the same time, social usefulness, to outgrow the dependency of childhood in the family group and to assume the increased adequacy and power of adulthood in the inclusive society. The book is divided into three parts: (I) "Changing Attitudes to the Self" (II) "Changing Personal Relationships," and (III) "Changing Attitudes to Basic Social Institutions."

Music Lovers' Encyclopedia edited by Deems Taylor and Russell Kerr, compiled by Rupert Hughes. 877 pp. Nelson Doubleday, Inc., New York, N.Y. 1939. Information on operas, composers, instruments, notation and harmony. Many brief articles on special phases of music history and technique.

Group Education for a Democracy. William Heard Kilpatrick. Auspices of American Association for the Study of Group Work. 219 pp. Association Press, New York, N. Y. 1940. A practical presentation of changes in the social situation today that disrupt the unity of our former integrated culture. Cooperative rather than highly individualistic attitudes and relationships are necessary if we are to emerge into a culture unified around the concept and practices of democracy. Education, therefore, must cultivate an understanding of these processes of change, stimulate critical thinking on real problems, and provide experiences in cooperative endeavor.

Play for Convalescent Children in Hospitals and at Home. Anne Marie Smith. 173 pp. A. S. Barnes. New York, N.Y. 1941. A convincing book showing what can be done with play when it is made an integral part of the convalescent care of children and when it is considered a fundamental part of the education of pediatric nurses. Specific illustrations are given of the organization of play for children, in wards, before surgical operations and the use of play in the education of nurses.

Nature Recreation. William Gould ("Cap'n Bill") Vinal. 313 pp. Association Press, New York, N. Y. 1941. Nature presented as Cap'n Bill knows how to do it.

Government Bulletins

Freedoms We Defend. A pageant compiled and arranged by Wesa Weddington, Principal, St. Austin High School, Bryan, Tex. Available through Texas Extension Service, College Station.

A Civilian Defense Volunteer Office. What it is, How it is set up, What it does, How to organize it. 35 pp. U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C. 1941. Lists regional directors, committees, suggests activities, and outlines purposes.

Alabama Rural Communities: A Study of Chilton County. Irwin T. Sanders and Douglas Ensminger. Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Alabama College, Quart. Bul. Vol. XXXIII, No. 1A, Montevallo, Ala. 80 pp. 1940. An interesting study that gives a complete inventory of the social organization of a rural county with the emphasis on the people viewing their own social scene. An attempt was made "to develop a method by which the businessman, the newspaper editor, the teacher, or any wide-awake citizen can get a clearer picture of what an Alabama community really is."

What the Schools Can Do. U. S. Office of Education. Education and National Defense pamphlet No. 4, 55 pp. illus. 1941. Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 15 cents. Recommends action on six fronts: (1) health and physical education; (2) education for citizenship; (3) community, national, and international relations; (4) conservation of national resources; (5) education for work; (6) pupil guidance. Reading references are provided. On its flyleaf is quoted the message of President Roosevelt, "What the schools do may prove in the long run to be more decisive than any other factor in preserving the form of government we cherish."

Patterns of Living of Farm Families. Day Monroe. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Yearbook Separate No. 1764. 20 pp. 1941. A section on expenditures for recreation and education is included in this valuable booklet.

From the Magazines

How Parents Learn. Ada Hart Arlitt. National Parent-Teacher, Vol. 35, No. 7. pp. 10-11. March 1941. A discussion of how parents learn, emphasizing points that educators should keep in mind when teaching adults. Interesting materials are of first importance. They should be clearly presented and lead to definite activity, for nothing is learned until it is reacted upon. There should be full and free discussion, since this clears the individual's thinking and teaches through the exchange of experience. Group study is usually more valuable for adults than reading books, even if the books are well outlined.

Don't Tell Us. The American Home, Vol. 25, No. 5. pp. 16-17. April 1941. An article, on the beautification and use of backyards, gardens, and vacant lots, suggesting play equipment, games, and outdoor stage construction.

Creative Weaving With Simple Equipment. Nellie Sargent Johnson. Journal of Home Economics, Vol. 33, No. 5. pp. 322-333. May 1941. A good article on the why and how of hand weaving.

Organizing Community Meetings. D. E. Lindstrom. Rural America, Vol. 19, No. 3, p. 5. March 1941. A discussion of community meetings as a means of adult education in rural America, listing the main points brought out by a group considering methods of community work at the 1940 American Country Life Conference.

Americans Need Play. John R. Tunis. Harper's Magazine. pp. 200-205. July 1941. Lively article on need and use of facilities geared especially to low-income levels.

Looking Ahead to Christmas

It seems early to be thinking of Christmas, but I know your committees are beginning to discuss plans for community celebrations.

As far as I know, attractive Christmas carol booklets will again be available free of charge from the John Hancock Life Insurance Co., 197 Clarenton Street, Boston, Mass.

Inexpensive editions of familiar carols with words and music have been published by Treasure Chest Publications, New York, N. Y., Whitman Co., Racine, Wis., and Robbins Co., N. Y.

Lovely less-familiar carols will be found in Singing America, C. C. Birchard Co., Boston, Mass.

The Six Green Singers, by Eleanor Farjean in "Come Christmas," published by Frederick A. Stokes Co., has been used as the basis of a successful ceremony dramatizing the hanging of the greens.

Cherished and Shared of Old. Susan Glaspell. Julian Messner, Inc., 8 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. A brief Christmas story of friendship in this land of many races.

A Community Christmas Party. 8 pp. National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 1940. (mimeogr.) Suggestions for invitations, decorations, music, and games. The Association has several other excellent inexpensive collections of Christmas ideas.

Let's Celebrate Christmas; parties, plays, legends, carols, poetry, stories. Horace J. Gardner. Illustrated by Edna Potter. 212 pp. music. A. S. Barnes, New York, N. Y. 1940. A useful collection of both old and modern selections.

Christmas Stories for the whole family: All Through the Night, a stocking book of charming simplicity, written and illustrated by Rachel Field, 38 pp. The Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., 1940. Reverently tells of the beasts, birds, and insects who watched with awe and kindness over the Babe in His straw-filled manger. Christmas, a story by Eleanor Roosevelt, illustrated by Fritz Kredel, 42 pp. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 501 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., 1940. Another

pocketsized little book reflecting the sadness of a Dutch Christmas in 1940, yet sounding the reassuring note of the power of love and faith in a war-torn world. Elizabeth Morrow tells a new story of the Tucker family in The Rabbit's Nest, 43 pp. The Macmillan Co., 1940. The children again take their mother literally, only to find that the nest on the closet shelf is for discarded Christmas presents rather than for actual rabbits. The Shining Tree and Other Stories for Christmas, 268 pp. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1940. A happy collection of 12 stories by such well-known authors as Carolyn Bailey, Hildegard Hawthorne, Emma Brock, and Lois Lenski. Stories To Read at Christmas, by Elsie Singmaster. 231 pp. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., 432 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. These stories have appeared previously in magazines. In them a variety of Yuletide celebrations in American homes are depicted with warmth and often a touch of sentiment. These stories are for adults as well as for children.

--The Book List, American Library
Association, Vol. 37, No. 5,
Nov. 1940, p 124.

A Gift Idea

Pine cones, small sticks, corncobs, and paper rolls can be so treated with powdered chemicals that they will burn with colored fire. Paint the cone or stick with shellac and while it is still wet sprinkle the chemical over it. Common salt burns yellow; strontium chloride, red; barium chloride, green; calcium chloride, orange; lithium chloride, purple; and copper sulfate, blue. Never mix the chemicals if a clear color is desired.

The Rural Sociological Society meets December 27-30 at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York, N. Y. Perhaps I shall see some of you there.

Cordially yours,

Ella Gardner,
Recreation Specialist.

Enclosures

